

Forest Policy Changes and Actual Needs of Decision Makers in Croatia

International Symposium,
Nancy, 21-24 June 2009

Dijana Vuletić, DSc, FRI Jastrebarsko, Croatia

Silvija Krajter, FRI Jastrebarsko, Croatia



Contents

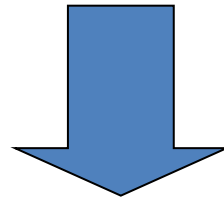
- Introduction (slide 3)
- EU and SFM (slide 4)
- Croatia and SFM (slides 5-6)
- Recent policy changes in Croatia (slides 7-9)
- Methodology (slide 10)
- Results (slides 11-16)
- Conclusions (slides 17-18)

Introduction

- SEE-ERA Net's project-REFORMAN
- EU (Austria, Germany, Slovenia) and SEE (B&H, Croatia, Serbia)
- Aim of the project: comparison of natural and socioeconomic frame conditions – perceptions and needs of forestry professionals/decision makers in context of SFM.
- Aim of the presentation is to present results for Croatia, as a country with economy in transition and future EU member.

EU and SFM

EU made commitments in many international processes (UN Conference on Environment and Development, 1992; MCPFE etc.)



EU Forestry Strategy (1998)
EU Forest Action Plan (2006)

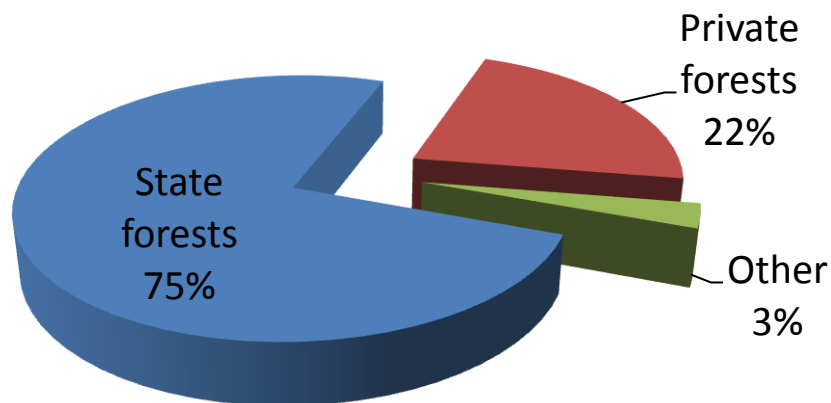
Croatia and SFM

- **Convention on biological diversity (1992);**
- **Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1992);**
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (2000);**
- **The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1991)**
- **International Plant Protection Convention (1999);**
- **Kyoto Protocol (ratified in 2007);**
- **Resolutions and General declarations of Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE);**
- **Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 1979)**
- **EEC directive 79/409** on bird protection in Europe;
- **EEC directive 92/43** on the protection of habitats in Europe with the commitment to the establishment of ecological network Natura 2000.

Croatia and SFM (Ctd.)

- More than 250 years long tradition of SFM, forests cover 47% of land
- 95% of close-to-nature managed forests
- FSC certificate (2002) for all state forests (more than 2 million ha of certified forests)

Forest land in Croatia by ownership



Type of forest according to management	Acrage in ha
Managed forests	2 168 874 ha
Protection forests	130 630 ha
Forests for spec. purposes	103 278 ha
Total	2 4020 782 ha

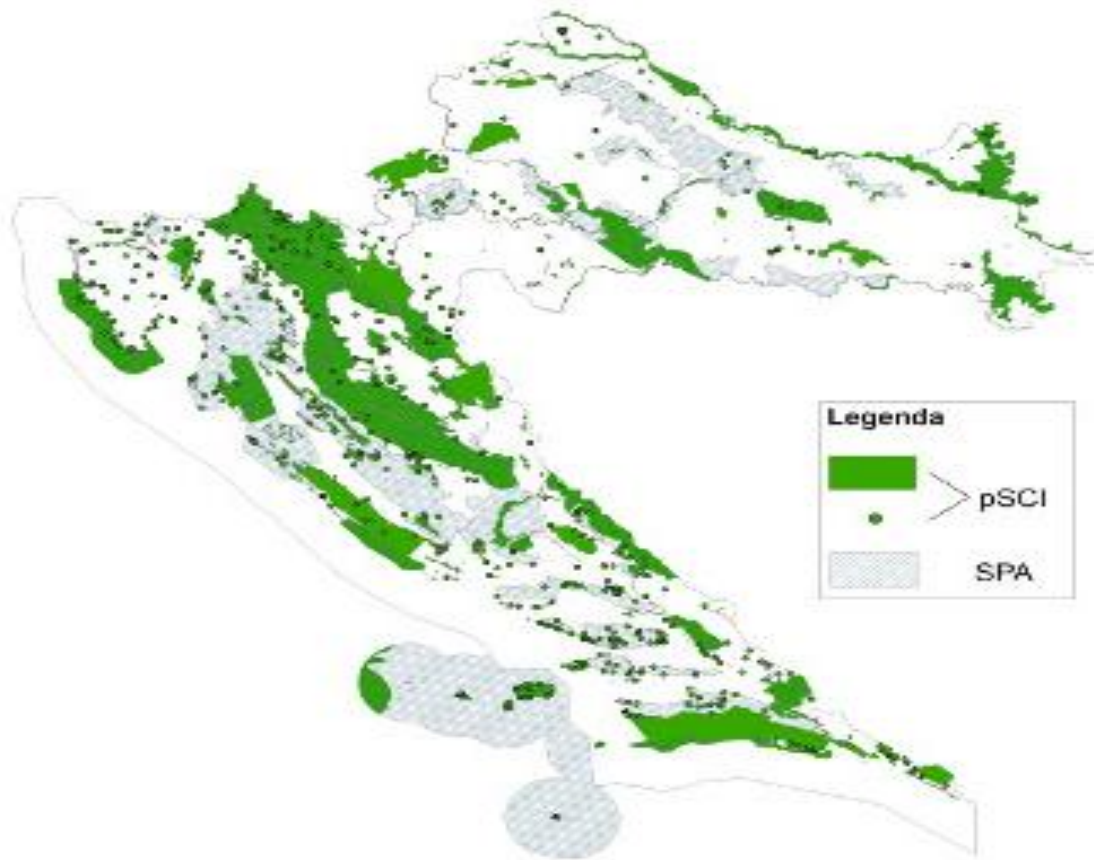
Some recent policy changes in Croatia

- Initiated by **National Forestry Strategy and Policy** (OG 120/2003)
 - 133 strategic priorities addressing 7 topics (immediate, mid-term and long-term priorities) for 10 year period
 - Majority of priorities were already fulfilled to some extent, but restructuring of State Forest Company Croatian Forests Ltd. was in serious delay (Vuletic et al 2008)
- **New Forest Law** (OG 140/2005)
- **Est. of Forestry Extension Service** (OG 64/2006)
- **Est. of Croatian Chamber of Forestry and Wood Technology Engineers** (OG 22/2006)
- **NO National Forest Program (NFP) so far!**

Recent policy changes in Croatia (Ctd.)

- **CRO-NEN** (Croatian Ecological Network, 2007)
 - Covers 47% of land and 39% of sea + two corridors
 - 2% of forests in this network
- Final proposal for **NATURA 2000** network by State Agency for Nature Protection
 - Covers 44.83% of territory of Croatia
 - More than 1000 pSCI and SPA sites

Final proposal for NATURA 2000 Network in Croatia



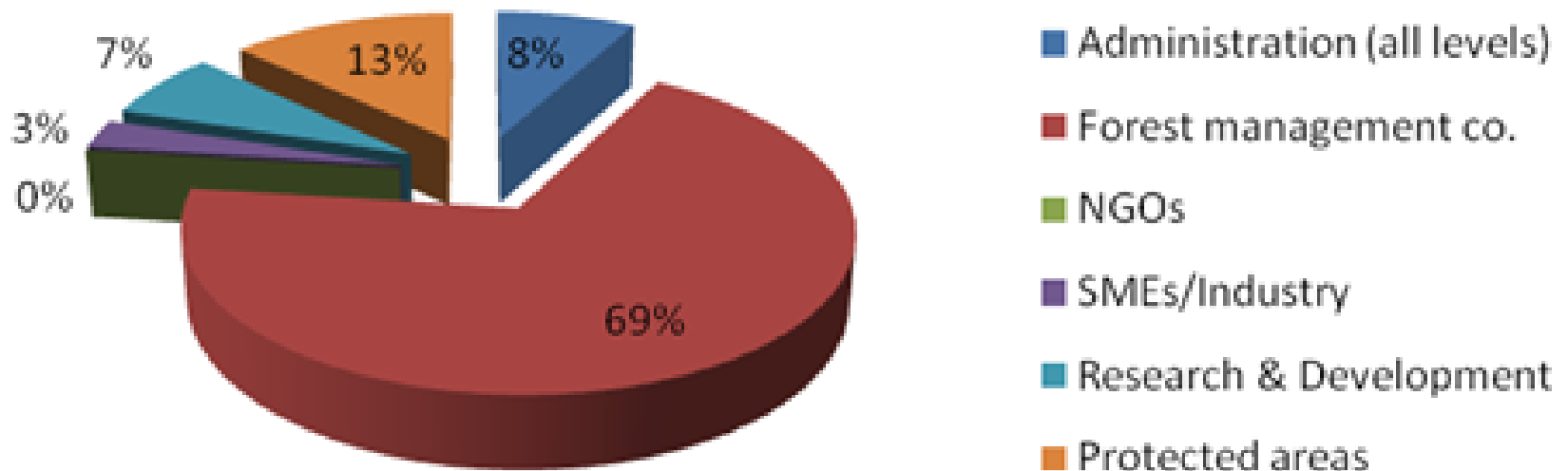
Source: State Agency for Nature Protection, 2009.

Methodology

- Web questionnaire addressing forestry professionals (77 respondents)
- Face-to-face interviews with high level decision makers (16 interviewees)

Respondents according to institution

Respondents according to type of institution in which they work

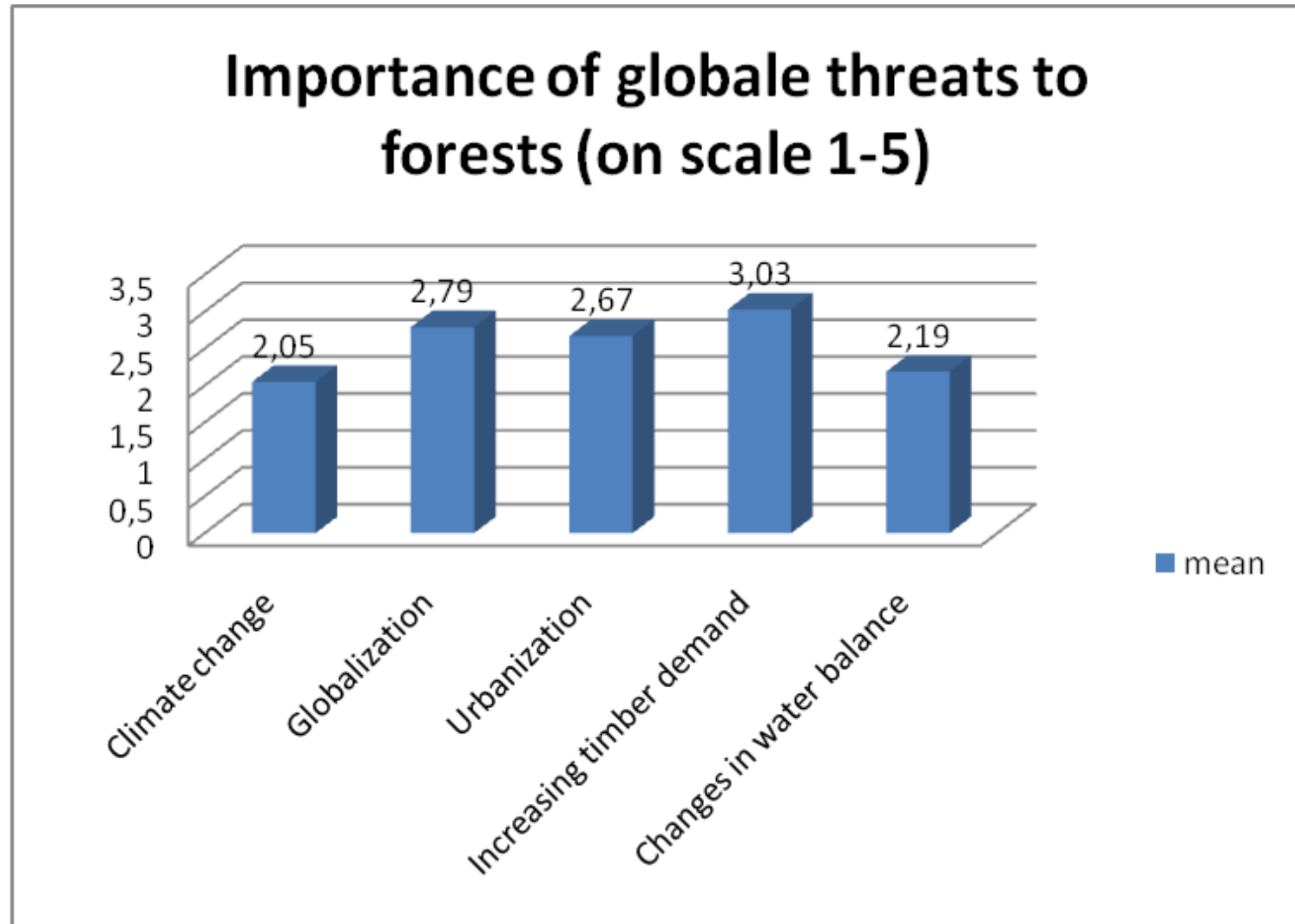


The most important international institution/organization/process influencing Croatian forestry sector

The most important international institution/organization/process	N	%
FSC, certification of forests	34	27,87%
NATURA 2000	19	15,57%
FAO	16	13,11%
MCPFE	11	9,01%
EU	9	7,38%
eNGOs, IUCN, GEF	9	7,38%
CAP	5	4,10%
UN	5	4,10%
IUFRO	3	2,46%
Kyoto protocol	3	2,46%
CEPF	2	1,64%
World Bank	2	1,64%
COST E-51	1	0,82%
ICP Forests	1	0,82%
Wood processing industry	1	0,82%
AIFM	1	0,82%
TOTAL	122	100,00%

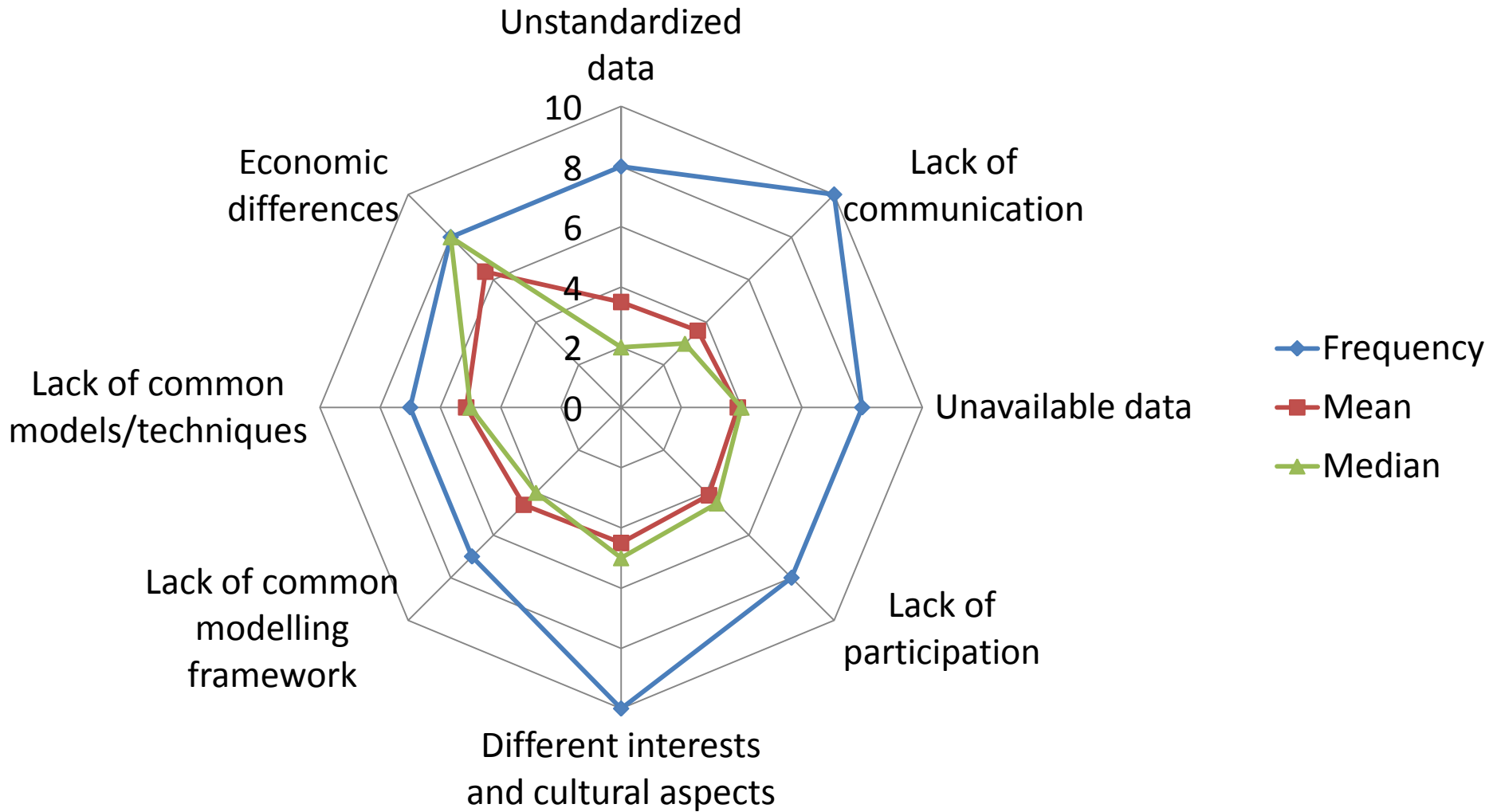
Global threats to forests

(1-very important, 5-not important at all)

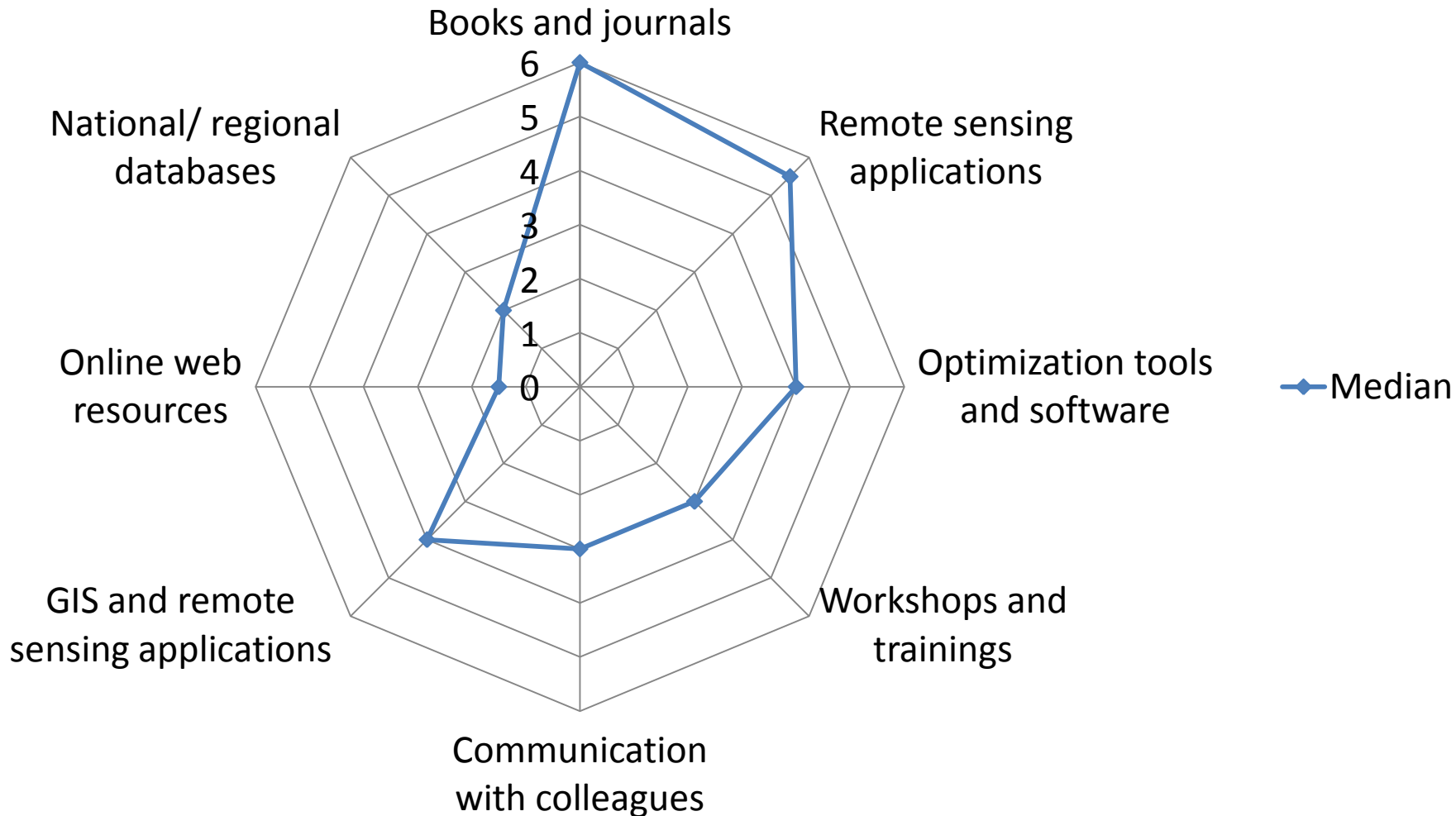


Major obstacles for SFM

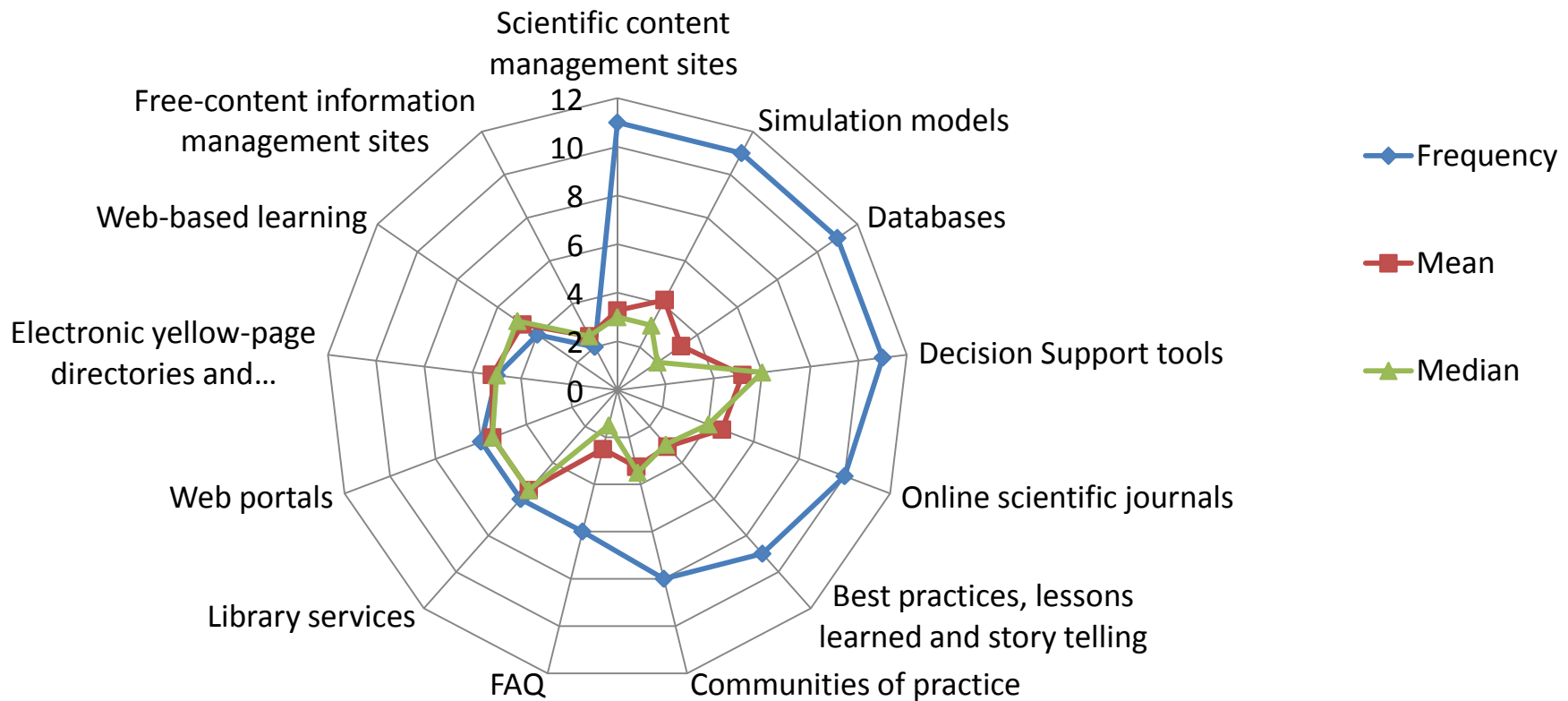
(rank from 1-the most important to 8-the least important)



What decision makers need in order to improve decision making process in FM?



Future needs of decision makers for decision support and knowledge management tools in FM



Conclusions

- Changes mentioned before well depict what one country in transition has to go through when crossing from central planned to market economy.
- Croatian forestry professionals and high level decision makers are well aware of impacts of international processes on forestry sector and policy changes and feel averagely capable to cope with these changes.
- They are aware of obstacles (e.g. no National Inventory so far) with regard to SFM and have suggestions how to improve current situation.

Conclusions (Ctd.)

- Increased public interest in forestry and especially NWFP shows need for change in usual decision making procedures.
- They are willing to use decision support tools if offered.
- By establishing SPI it is possible in the future to offer tailor made solutions to decision makers in order to help them to continue tradition of SFM and become more adaptable to changes.

Thank you for your attention!